

THANK YOU
FOR JOINING US TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

CONNECT PARTY

Next Sunday, May 27th at 5pm

All are welcome to our Connect Party, designed to help you build relationships with other people who attend or are new to Element as well as get to know some Element leadership. Light Appitizers and Desserts will be provided.
Email connect@ourelement.org to RSVP.

EMOMS! SUMMER EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

Lots of upcoming events for eMoms, including weekly park play dates, bowling, aquatic center and more. Get the full list at the Welcome Center or by emailing emoms@ourelement.org.

JOIN OUR WEEKLY EMAIL

Stay up to date in your inbox!

Sign up at ourelement.org or email connect@ourelement.org and say, "Join mailing list"



ELEMENT
christian church

www.ourelement.org/proverbs

FEAR OF THE LORD PART 1

Today's Verses:

Philippians 2:12-13
Proverbs 9:19
1 John 4:18
Psalm 14:11

Proverbs 23:17-18
Job 1:8
Ecclesiastes 12:13
2 Samuel 23:3-4

Colossians 3:22
Colossians 2:2-3
Psalm 130:4
Proverbs 23:17

FEAR OF THE LORD PART 1

At Element we are currently going through a series on Proverbs working through topics that the book addresses in order to better understand our place in being counter cultural change agents in our society. We are meant to live in the wisdom God provides and not the short term and temporary “wisdom” our culture provides. If you look throughout history, cultures have always brought forth and purported a wisdom that directly contradicts what God calls us to be, and yet most people in a society believed the thing that was counter to what God said was OK.

It is important in the world that we live in today to think about how we steward what God has given us. God calls us to care about the world around us and to live in His wisdom. How we live in this wisdom starts with a proper understanding of God. *Proverbs 9:19 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.* Of those who believe in God there are usually 2 types:

- They have a high view of God and low view of man (and his wisdom)
- They have a high view of man (man’s human opinion) and a low view of God (and His wisdom).

The former in proverbs is considered wise, the latter is considered a fool.

It is imperative that rather than seeking mere wisdom, we instead seek a right/fearful understanding of God in whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are stored (Colossians 2:2-3). Today we are so afraid of the word “fear” and what it might mean that we shy away from it altogether. “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom ...” It’s the beginning, which means if you don’t have the fear of the Lord, you are not wise. If we have all of the *knowledge* in the world, but not proper fear of God, we will misunderstand our knowledge, we will misapply it, we will misuse it, and we won’t even understand why we are so wrong.

Without the proper fear of God, and the correct understanding of what that means, there is no possibility of wisdom at all.

Introduction

There are different words used for fear in the scriptures, one type means **terror** and the other type means **reverence**. In the Old Testament it’s not that hard to tell the difference because the words are easily identified, but in the New Testament we always have to look at the context of how the words are used to understand it correctly.

Discussion Key

Red – Easy level, not much intimacy

Blue – Intended to dig a bit deeper

Black – Designed to create deeper conversation

Discussion

What were you most afraid of when you were a child?

What are you most afraid of today?

Explanation

Have you ever asked how or where your food, clothes, or creature comforts come from?

What would it take to make you stop using a product you currently feel you can’t live without?

Is fear of God something that has ever motivated you to do the right thing? How?

Application – Read Psalm 130:4 & Proverbs 23:17

Have you ever had a relationship where there was fear involved?

What did that look like?

How do you think fear and reverence can mean the same thing?

Do you have any relationships in your life that you fear hurting the other person (for a good reason, not a retaliatory reason)? How?

Mission

What ways can a proper fear of God motivate you to live out the Gospel?

How can you explain the difference between fear (terror) and fear (reverence) to others?

Homework: Read 2 Corinthians 7:1

Do you think there are effects to not properly fearing God?

What are they?